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COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
(43011 CIC Detachment)

LAND SALZBURG SECTION

A TO S41

U. S. ARMY

Pope

CIC SALZBURG
Ref. No. S-1344

ACTION	ES
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FIR:VTR
Hallein Sub-Section
4 March 1948

SUBJECT: Vatican

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

The following information was submitted to the undersigned Agent by a confidential Russian informant of anti-Bolshevist and anti-Monarchist orientation and is claimed to be based on a lengthy conversation between Informant and Subject.

Subject is CUTZEM Pater Marcel van, Jesuit priest, age 39, Belgian subject, residing at Glaeserstrasse 12, Salzburg. He is claimed to be a representative of the "Russian Section" of the Vatican, speaks the Russian language expertly, has a thorough knowledge of Russian affairs and occupies himself with furnishing assistance to anti-Soviet Russian DPs, particularly prominent political and Russian Orthodox personalities.

During a conversation with Source, Subject expressed the following views:

"After the revolution of 1917-1918 and as a result of thirty years of Soviet rule, Russia has lost most of its spiritual guidance. The remaining Orthodox clergy consists either of very old men or of youths who grew up under the Soviet influence and who are often graduates of 'Komsomoltsi' (Communist Youth). The church of Russia also stands under the influence of the NKVD who uses it to serve the ends of the Soviet state. As a consequence the Russian masses have lost their moral caliber and a spiritual vacuum has come into existence."

"The only organization prepared to save Christianity in Russia, following the possible and imminent collapse of the Soviet regime, is the Roman Catholic Church. Only the Vatican is able to fill the resulting vacuum with thousands of priests of modern education and flawless political and moral character, who will learn Russian customs and language in a short time and who will constitute a strong force for spiritual education, law and order. Based on historical experience, the Vatican considers that a harmonious collaboration between the Roman Catholic Church and a monarchist government will constitute the most satisfactory solution to the problem of a Godless Russia."

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"...the inclusion of Russia, which contains one-third of the world's population, into the Roman Catholic realm will be a potent factor in the unification of all Christianity."

According to Source's interpretation of Subject's remarks, the Vatican aims at Catholic penetration of Russia and at the establishment of a monarchist or Czarist regime and at the unification of all Christian religions under the Papal authority. Source believes that the Orthodox Church, as one of the legendary "seven whales" upon which Mother Russia rests, is far too well established and too well adapted to the Russian mentality to therefore accept another faith.

Files of this office contain the following additional information concerning CUSTEN (CUTZEN) Marcel van Pater:

Born 28 April 1909 in Antwerp, Belgium; at the present, is a bona-fide representative of the Vatican, commissioned mainly with the gathering of highly classified intelligence and investigation missions.

F. K. Richter
F. K. RICHTER
Special Agent,

Source: "Tornado"

Evaluation: C-

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